

MARVEL  
COMICS  
GROUP

60¢ 62  
JAN  
02199

WIN A *Columbia* TEN-SPEED  
FORMULA 10 RACER!



DETAILS INSIDE



APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

# PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN®



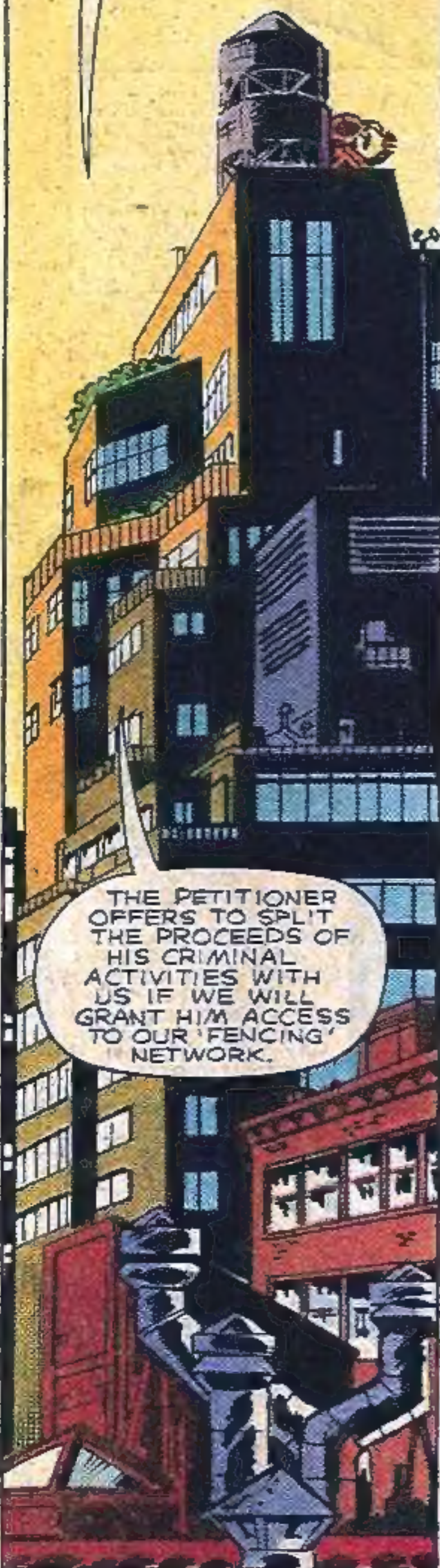
BEWARE  
THE  
GLITTERING  
GUN  
OF...  
GOLD  
BUG!





SOMEWHERE ON  
THE EAST SIDE  
OF MANHATTAN...

GENTLEMEN,  
THE MAGGIA  
HAS BEEN  
PETITIONED  
FOR AID.



THE PETITIONER  
OFFERS TO SPLIT  
THE PROCEEDS OF  
HIS CRIMINAL  
ACTIVITIES WITH  
US IF WE WILL  
GRANT HIM ACCESS  
TO OUR 'FENCING'  
NETWORK.

# THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN



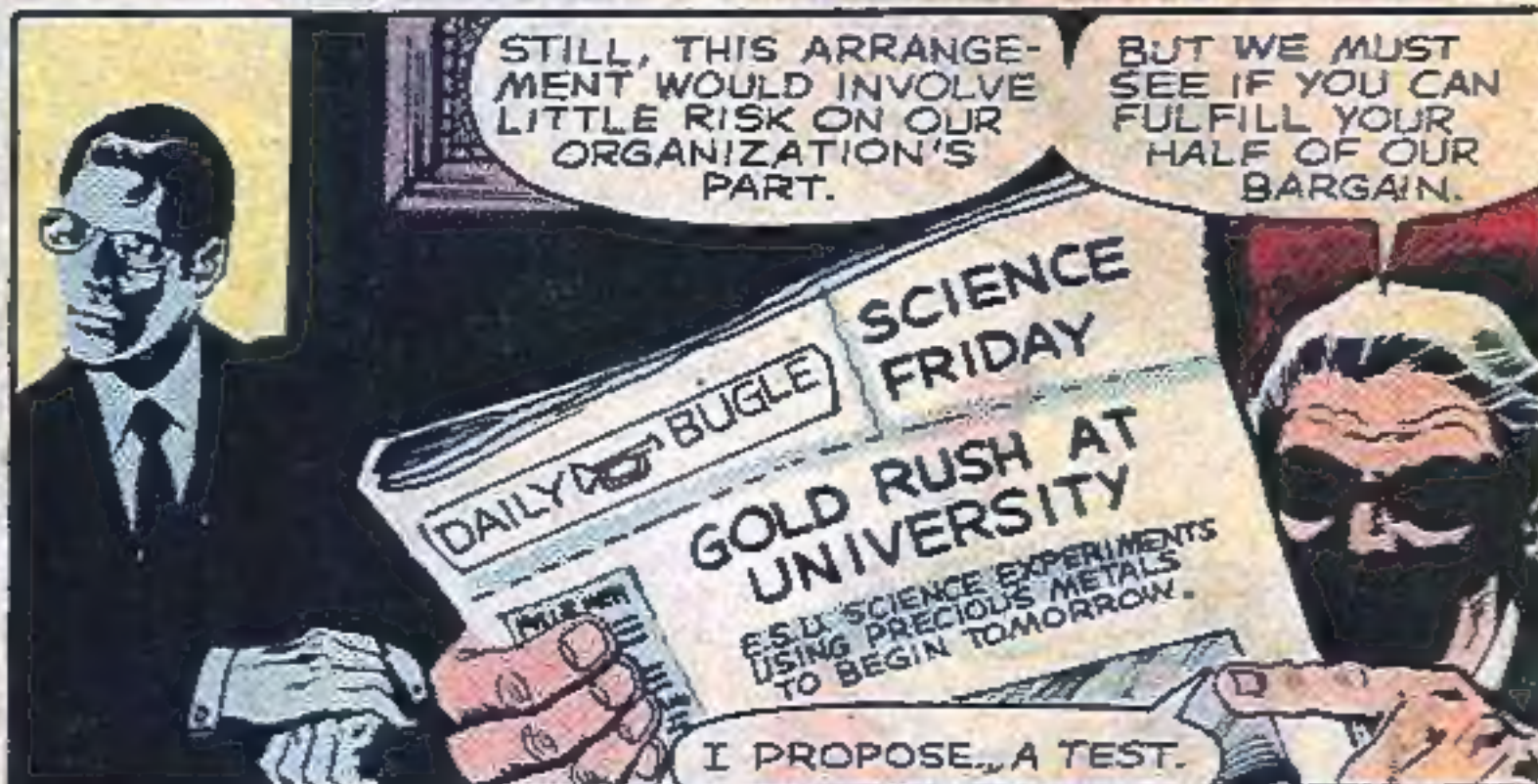
HEY, IT'S NOT LIKE I'M  
ASKING FOR CHARITY!  
I'M HERE TO PROPOSE  
A PARTNERSHIP WITH  
THE MAGGIA.

WE MUST TAKE YOUR  
PREVIOUS PERFORM-  
ANCES INTO CONSIDER-  
ATION.



YEAH,  
YOUR TRACK  
RECORD STINKS!

STORY BY BILL MANTLO \* ART BY ED HANNIGAN & JIM MOONEY



STILL, THIS ARRANGE-  
MENT WOULD INVOLVE  
LITTLE RISK ON OUR  
ORGANIZATION'S  
PART.

BUT WE MUST  
SEE IF YOU CAN  
FULFILL YOUR  
HALF OF OUR  
BARGAIN.

I PROPOSE... A TEST.

LETTERS • ALBERS COLORS • SHAREN DEFALCO EDITOR SHOOTER CHIEF



YOU WANT ME TO HIT  
SOME CRUMMY COLLEGE  
SCIENCE LAB? DON'T  
WORRY--

--THE  
GOLD BUG  
WILL  
DELIVER!



# GOLD FEVER!

THE NEXT DAY, AS AN ARMORED CAR DISGORGES ITS GLITTERING CARGO TO A CHORUS OF OOHs AND AHHS FROM A CROWD--SMITTEN BY THE SIGHT OF THIS GILT FANTASY--AND HELD AT A DISTANCE BY THE REALITY OF POLICE BARRICADES AND ARMED GUARDS.

ABOVE, UNDER THE EAVES OF THE NEARBY SCIENCE BUILDING, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN RECORDS THE DELIVERY OF THE GOLD FOR POSTERITY... AND A PAYCHECK FROM THE DAILY BUGLE...

THIS WOULD BE ONE BORING ASSIGNMENT-- IF ALL THAT GOLD WEREN'T BEING DELIVERED INTO THE HANDS OF PETER PARKER!

BELOW, THE FRIENDS AND SCHOOLMATES OF PETER PARKER ARE WONDERING JUST WHAT'S KEEPING THAT UN-FORTUNATE SOUL!

WELL, THE GOLD'S HERE...

BUT NO PETER!

IS HE CRAZY? THIS IS HIS EXPERIMENT! IF HE MISSES IT, DOCTOR SLOAN WILL HANG HIS HIDE!



THAT MIGHT BE ALL FOR THE BEST, MARCY! IF OUR POVERTY-STRICKEN MR. PARKER EVER GETS HIS HANDS ON ALL THAT YELLOW, THERE'S NO TELLIN' WHAT'D HAPPEN TO HIM!

HOPKINS, YOU CAN BE A REAL IDIOT AT TIMES! THAT GOLD'S ONLY BEEN **LOANED** TO EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY TO TEST SOME THEORIES PETE PUT FORTH IN A RESEARCH PAPER...

ON THE RADIATION-ABSORPTION PROPERTIES OF PRECIOUS METALS. A REAL TONGUE-TWISTER OF A TITLE, HUH?

SO WHERE'S THE PROUD AUTHOR?

PHILIP CHANG'S QUESTION IS, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, BEING ECHOED BY THE HEAD OF ESU'S BIO-PHYSICS DEPARTMENT, DR. MORRIS SLOAN...

PARKER'S RESEARCH PAPER ALMOST MADE UP FOR HIS ABYSMAL ATTENDANCE RECORD. I CONVINCED THE DEAN TO ALLOW THIS EXPERIMENT TO TAKE PLACE ON CAMPUS, YET PARKER'S NOWHERE TO BE SEEN.

I'LL TRY TO FIND HIM, DR. SLOAN!

I HEARD THAT! ONE REASON MY ATTENDANCE HAS BEEN DOWN LATELY IS THAT **CRIME** HAS BEEN UP!

OF COURSE, PETER PARKER COULDN'T VERY WELL OFFER THAT AS AN EXCUSE TO DR. SLOAN--

-- WITHOUT TELLING HIM THAT HIS TARDY TEACHING ASSISTANT IS ALSO **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!**

BUT I CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE MY **TASHIP**--OR MY FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER'S JOB WITH THE DAILY BUGLE! I HAVE TO PAY MY TUITION NOT TO MENTION AUNT MAY'S MEDICAL BILLS!

OF COURSE, I'D HAVE MORE TIME FOR MY STUDIES IF I DIDN'T SPEND MY NIGHTS WEB-SLINGING ALL OVER TOWN!

I COULD GIVE UP BEING SPIDER-MAN.

... BUT MY LITTLE SPIDER-FEET WOULD STILL STICK TO CARPETS AND MY SPIDER-FINGERS WOULD STILL CLING TO WALLS! SEEMS LIKE A WASTE TO LET SUCH POWERS GO TO WASTE!





SO I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP JUGGLING THE MANY LIVES OF PETER PARKER LIKE A TRAINED SEAL ON A BEACHBALL!

WEBBED BENEATH A VENTILATION DUCT ON THE ROOF OF THE ESU PHYSICS BUILDING, SPIDER-MAN'S SHOULDER BAG AWAITS HIM...

...CONTAINING THE LESS-THAN-STYLISH PARAPHERNALIA OF HIS PETER PARKER IDENTITY.

I'VE GOT TO REPORT TO DR. SLOAN--



-- BEFORE HE BEGINS MY EXPERIMENT, WITHOUT ME!



SECONDS LATER...

AND IF HE COMES IN, MR. ROBERTSON, PLEASE HAVE HIM CALL...



PETER! YES, HE'S HERE, MR. ROBERTSON!

PETER PARKER, DR. SLOAN IS FURIOUS! THIS IS YOUR EXPERIMENT, AND...

I GOT HERE AS FAST AS I COULD, DEB! SAY, HOW'RE THINGS WITH YOU AND THAT PREPPIE BOYFRIEND OF YOURS?



BIFF? PETER, I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THAT--

MR. PARKER, HOW NICE OF YOU TO GRACE THESE HALLOWED WALLS WITH YOUR PRESENCE.



I DO NOT UNDERSTAND YOU, PETER. YOU ARE A BRILLIANT STUDENT, WHEN YOU DEIGN TO SHOW UP FOR CLASS--

-- AND NOW, WHEN ON THE STRENGTH OF A STUNNING RESEARCH PAPER, THE UNIVERSITY SPARES NO EXPENSE TO ALLOW YOU TO PUT YOUR THEORIES INTO PRACTICE, YOU COMPLETELY DISREGARD THE TIME.

WOULD YOU MIND TELLING ME WHAT COULD POSSIBLY TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER THIS EXPERIMENT?

WEB-SLINGING! CRIME-FIGHTING! SUPPORTING A SICK AUNT! PHOTO-JOURNALISM!

UH, NOTHING, DR. SLOAN! I-I'M JUST HAVING A HARD TIME GETTING MYSELF TOGETHER!





I SUGGEST YOU APPLY YOURSELF MORE DILIGENTLY, MR. PARKER. THOUGH STABS AT GENIUS ARE WELCOME IN THE FIELD OF PHYSICS, *DISCIPLINE* IS EQUALLY AS IMPORTANT.

I UNDERSTAND, SIR!

HEY! IF IT ISN'T THE "MIDAS MAN" HIMSELF!

DON'T GO LETTIN' THAT YELLOW METAL STICK TO YOUR FINGERS NOW, PETE!

STEVE, IN ONE HOUR, THAT GOLD IS GOING TO BE SO "HOT" I'M GONNA NEED LEAD-LINED GLOVES JUST TO HANDLE IT!

SAY! HERE COMES SOMEBODY I'D LIKE TO HANDLE!

UH, HI, MARCY.

HELLO, PETER. I-I JUST WANTED TO SAY HOW THRILLED I AM THAT YOU'RE GETTING THIS CHANCE TO TEST YOUR IDEAS. IT'S QUITE AN HONOR FOR BOTH YOU AND THE UNIVERSITY!

YOU'RE REALLY BIG ON THAT "OLD SCHOOL HONOR" STUFF, AREN'T YOU?

OF COURSE! HOW WE ACQUIT OURSELVES HERE, IS A MEASURE OF HOW WELL WE'LL SUCCEED IN OUR CHOSEN FIELDS ONCE WE GRADUATE!

MAKING A NAME FOR MYSELF—AND BECOMING A RESPECTED SCIENTIST—IS MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN ANYTHING ELSE!

OTHER THINGS ALSO MATTER TO ME, MARCY...

BUT, I DO WANT TO SUCCEED AT SCHOOL!

SOMETIMES I WOULD LIKE PEOPLE TO THINK OF ME AS THE SPECTACULAR PETER PARKER!

ENGROSSED IN HIS DISCUSSION WITH MARCY KANE, PETER PARKER FORGETS ALL ABOUT DEBRA WHITMAN... (5)



SHE, HOWEVER, IS FINDING IT INCREASINGLY MORE DIFFICULT TO FORGET HIM!

PETER!  
OH, PETER!

I-I STARTED DATING  
BIFF RIFKIN BECAUSE HE  
IS KIND, AND ATTENTIVE...  
AND YOU NEVER SEEM  
TO HAVE TIME FOR ME!

BUT THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
ABOUT YOU  
THAT FILLS ME  
WITH A LONGING  
I DON'T DARE TO  
EXPRESS TO  
YOU... FOR FEAR  
THAT YOU'D ONLY  
REJECT ME!

HER THOUGHTS, BORROWED PERHAPS FROM  
TOO MANY GOTHIC NOVELS, ARE INTERRUPTED AS  
DR. MORRIS SLOAN EMERGES FROM HIS OFFICE...

I'M GOING TO JOIN  
PARKER IN THE RADI-  
ATION LAB NOW,  
MS. WHITMAN!

I'LL TAKE  
YOUR CALLS.

PETER'S  
STUDIES PLACE HIM  
ON A PLANE BEYOND  
MY COMPREHENSION,  
WHERE HE CAN ONLY  
COMMUNICATE WITH  
PEOPLE LIKE DR. SLOAN...  
AND MARCY KANE!

LATER, IN THE  
HEART OF EM-  
PIRE STATE  
UNIVERSITY'S  
ULTRAMODERN  
RADIATION  
LAB--

RADIATION DANGER

AS YOU KNOW,  
MR. PARKER,  
I WILL  
PERSONALLY  
SUPERVISE  
THE FIRST  
PHASE OF YOUR  
EXPERIMENT.

AFTER THAT,  
YOU WILL  
BE ON YOUR  
OWN.

I EXPECT NO PROBLEMS. YOUR  
RESEARCH PAPER OUTLINED THE  
PROPER SUCCESSION OF STEPS  
TO BE TAKEN. I EXPECT YOU  
TO ADHERE TO YOUR OUTLINE.

I WILL, DOCTOR  
SLOAN.

ONCE WE PASS THROUGH THESE  
PORTALS--SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINE  
COULD MEAN THE DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN SUCCESS AND  
FAILURE.

▷ DANGER

WHEW!  
DR. SLOAN'S  
REALLY COMING  
DOWN ON ME!

I'VE  
GOTTA FORGET  
ABOUT BEING  
SPIDER-MAN,  
FOR ONCE, AND  
JUST BE PETER  
PARKER-- BOY  
SCIENTIST! (6)



DETERMINED TO SUCCEED, PETER PARKER FOLLOWS DR. MORRIS SLOAN INTO THE GLEAMING, STERILE INTERIOR OF THE ESU RADIATION LABORATORY...

THE UNIVERSITY'S IRRADIATORS HAVE BEEN PROGRAMMED ACCORDING TO YOUR SPECIFICATIONS, MR. PARKER.

THEY WILL IRRADIATE THE GOLD--AND MONITOR THE METAL'S RATE OF ABSORPTION.

NUMEROUS FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS--INDEED, EVEN THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF--HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE RESULTS OF YOUR EXPERIMENT.

I PRESUME THEY WISH TO KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO PRECIOUS METALS IN THE EVENT OF A NUCLEAR DISASTER.

HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT TO CONCERN OURSELVES WITH THE PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF YOUR RESEARCH, BUT ITS THEORY.

ARE YOU READY TO PROCEED?

YES, DR. SLOAN.

A SINGLE SWITCH IS ACTIVATED...

RADIATION, IN VARYING AMOUNTS, BATHE THE GLITTERING BULLION.

AND, AS THE EXPERIMENT DRAGS ON INTO THE NIGHT, A STRANGE SHIP THE COLOR OF THE MOON DESCENDS UNNOTICED, TOWARDS THE ROOF OF THE PHYSICS BUILDING.

INSIDE, THE GOLD BUG FEELS EQUALLY AS NERVOUS ABOUT BLOWING HIS BIG COMEBACK, AS PETER PARKER DOES OF SUCCEEDING AT HIS EXPERIMENT...

I THOUGHT BECOMING A COSTUMED CRIMINAL WOULD PUT ME ON EASY STREET! I WAS WRONG!

MY OVER-HEAD IS STAGGERING!

I USE REAL GOLD IN MY PARAPHERNALIA--MY SHIP, COSTUME AND WEAPONRY!

I CAN'T AFFORD TO GO IT ALONE ANYMORE! THE MAGGIA WILL PROVIDE ME WITH A SYSTEM FOR FENCING MY ILL-GOTTEN GOLDEN GAINS--

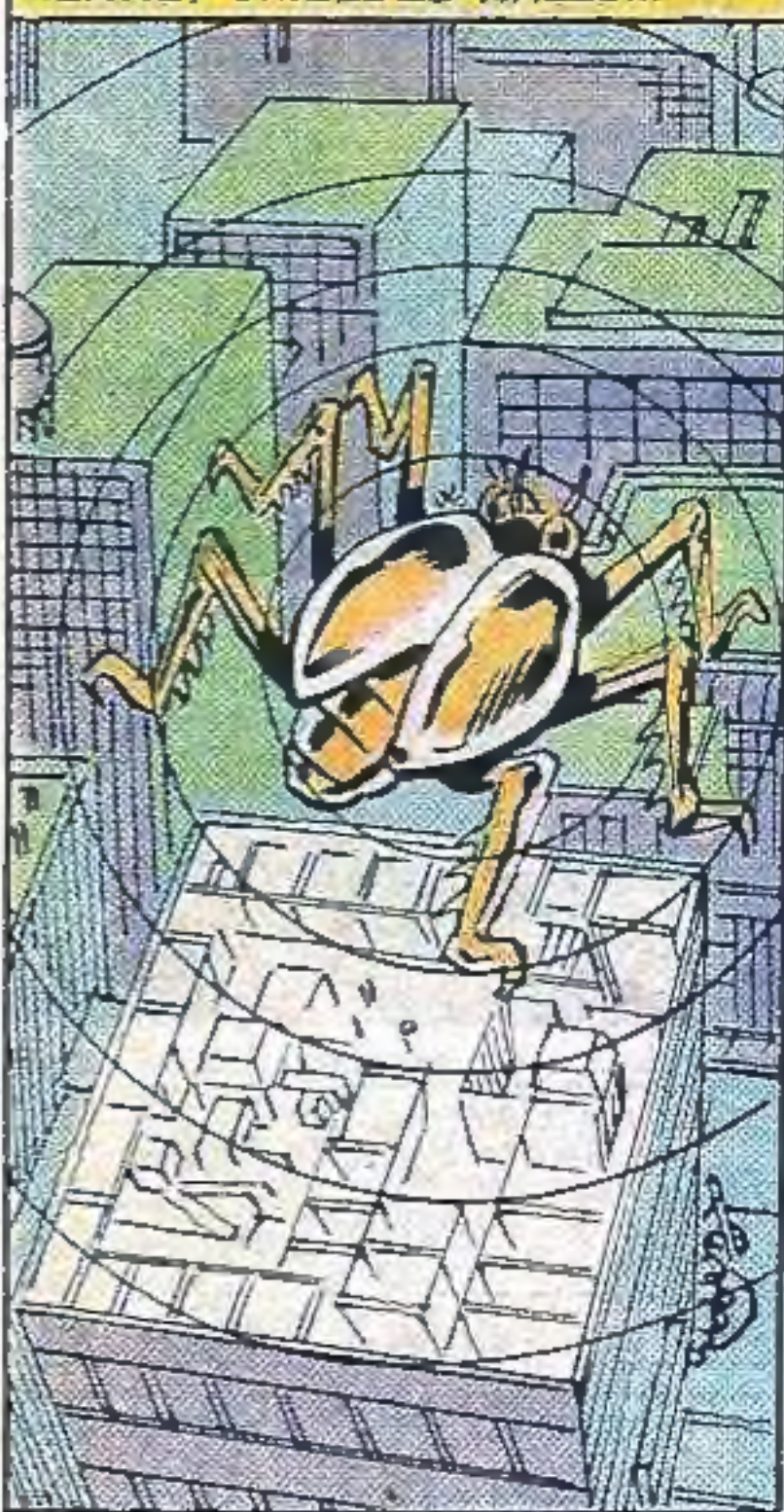
--FOR 80% OF MY TAKE!

I DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE! IT IS 20%... OR NOTHING!

BUT TONIGHT I'LL PROVE THAT THE GOLD BUG PAYS HIS OWN WAY!



MODIFIED RADAR SCANNERS IN THE INSECT-LIKE HOVER-CRAFT PINPOINT THE PRE-CISE LOCATION OF THE PRECIOUS METAL--DESPITE THE RADIATION LAB'S HEAVILY SHIELDED WALLS...



TWIN LASER BEAMS SILENTLY CUT AWAY THE STEEL AIR-PURIFICATION VENT DIRECTLY OVER THE LAB ITSELF...



AND THEN...



SHIP'S DONE ALL IT CAN!

IT'S TIME FOR A MORE PERSONAL TOUCH!

MEANWHILE, UNAWARE OF ANY IM-PENDING DANGER...

GOOD, MR. PARKER! VERY GOOD!

THAT COMPLETES THE FIRST PHASE OF YOUR EXPERIMENT.



THE GOLD IS NOW IRRADIATED. THE INSTRUMENTS WILL MONITOR THE ABSORPTION AND LOSS RATES. YOU WILL MONITOR THE INSTRUMENTS.

ALONE, DR. SLOAN?

I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MY SUPPER, MR. PARKER.

YES, SIR!



WOW! LEAVING ME ON MY OWN IS DOC SLOAN'S WAY OF TELLING ME HE TRUSTS ME TO FINISH THE EXPERIMENT ON MY OWN!

AND I GUESS HE FIGURES THAT THE FEAR OF LOUSING UP ON THE DE-RADIATING OF A MILLION BUCKS WORTH OF GOLD WILL KEEP ME 'DISCIPLINED'!



HE'S RIGHT! THIS IS MY BIG CHANCE TO RE-ESTABLISH CREDIBILITY IN DOC SLOAN'S EYES!

I WON'T BLOW IT!





DOWNSTAIRS, OUTSIDE  
DR. SLOAN'S OFFICE...

STILL HERE,  
MS. WHITMAN?

I-I THOUGHT  
I'D STAY AND  
WAIT FOR PETE...  
ER... MR. PARKER,  
DOCTOR!

I'M AFRAID YOU'LL BE HERE  
QUITE AWHILE, THEN--PERHAPS  
ALL NIGHT. THAT YOUNG MAN  
IS ERRATIC--BUT INSPIRED.  
WHAT ARE YOU READING  
MS. WHITMAN?

OH... ER...  
'ACROSS  
THE  
FRON-  
TIERS!'

HEISEN-  
BERG, HMMM?  
NOT QUITE  
A LAYMAN'S  
GUIDE TO  
PHYSICS.

STILL, YOU SURPRISE ME,  
MS. WHITMAN. I WOULD  
HAVE THOUGHT TO FIND YOU  
IMMERSED IN THE BRONTE  
SISTERS, PERHAPS--OR  
JANE AUSTEN. GOOD NIGHT...

G-GOOD  
NIGHT,  
DR. SLOAN!

HE'S RIGHT!  
PETER COULD  
READ THIS  
BOOK EASILY--

BA

--BUT I HAVEN'T UNDERSTOOD  
A WORD I'VE READ! HOW CAN  
I EVER RELATE TO...?

AN  
EXPLOSION!

AT THAT  
MOMENT,  
INSIDE  
THE  
RADIATION  
LAB...

LOOK! A GUY  
IN A GOLD SUIT  
COMING IN  
THROUGH THE  
ROOF--

--AND HE'S  
DROPPED THE  
CEILING ON THE  
KID WHO WAS  
CONDUCTING THIS  
EXPERIMENT!

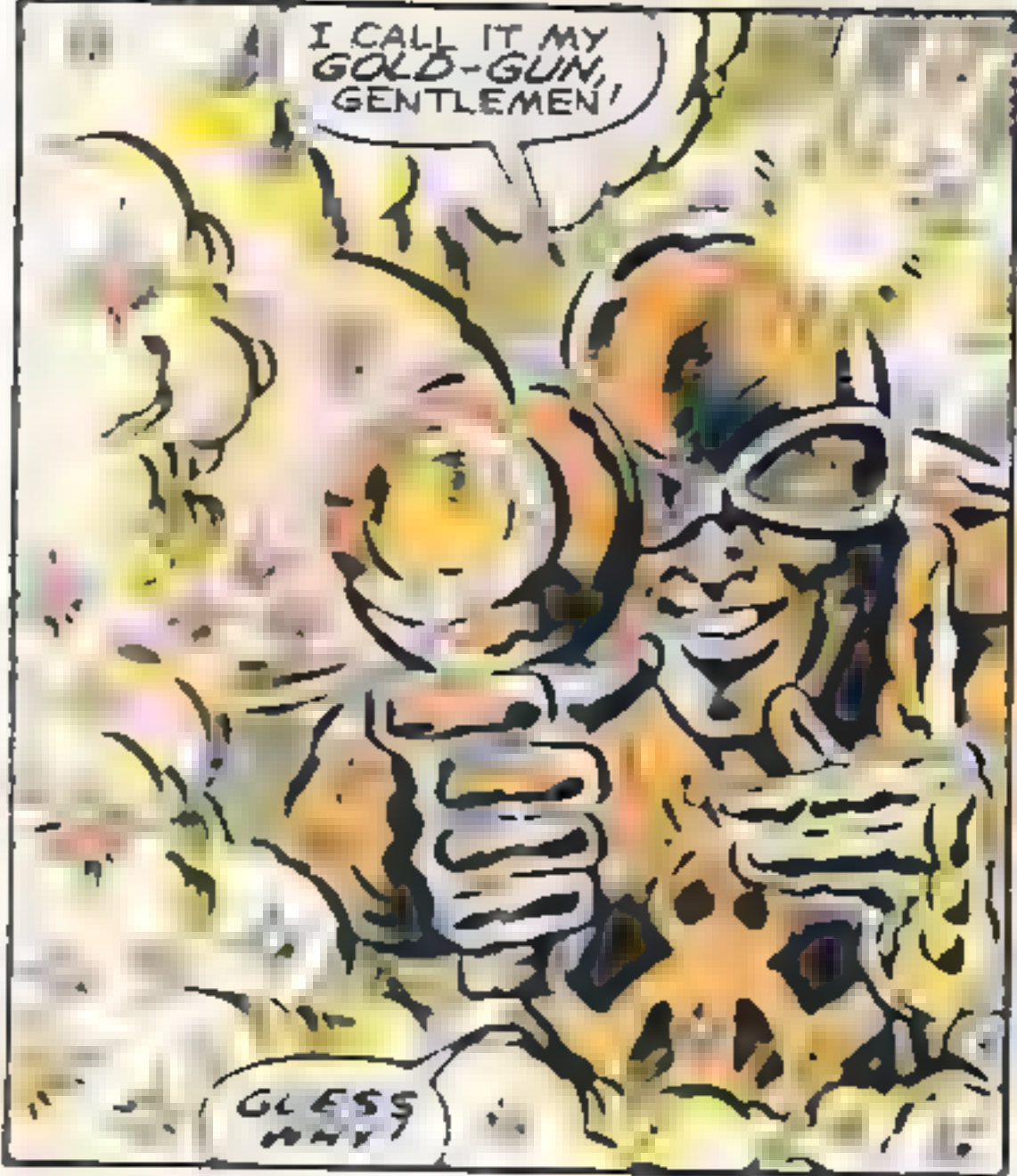
PETER!!

CAREFUL! HE'S  
GOT SOME KIND OF  
GUN POINTED  
STRAIGHT  
AT US!

VROOOM

MY SPIDER-SENSE  
WARNED ME OF DANGER! BUT  
THIS RADIATION SUIT HINDERED MY  
REFLEXES! COULDN'T REACT IN TIME!



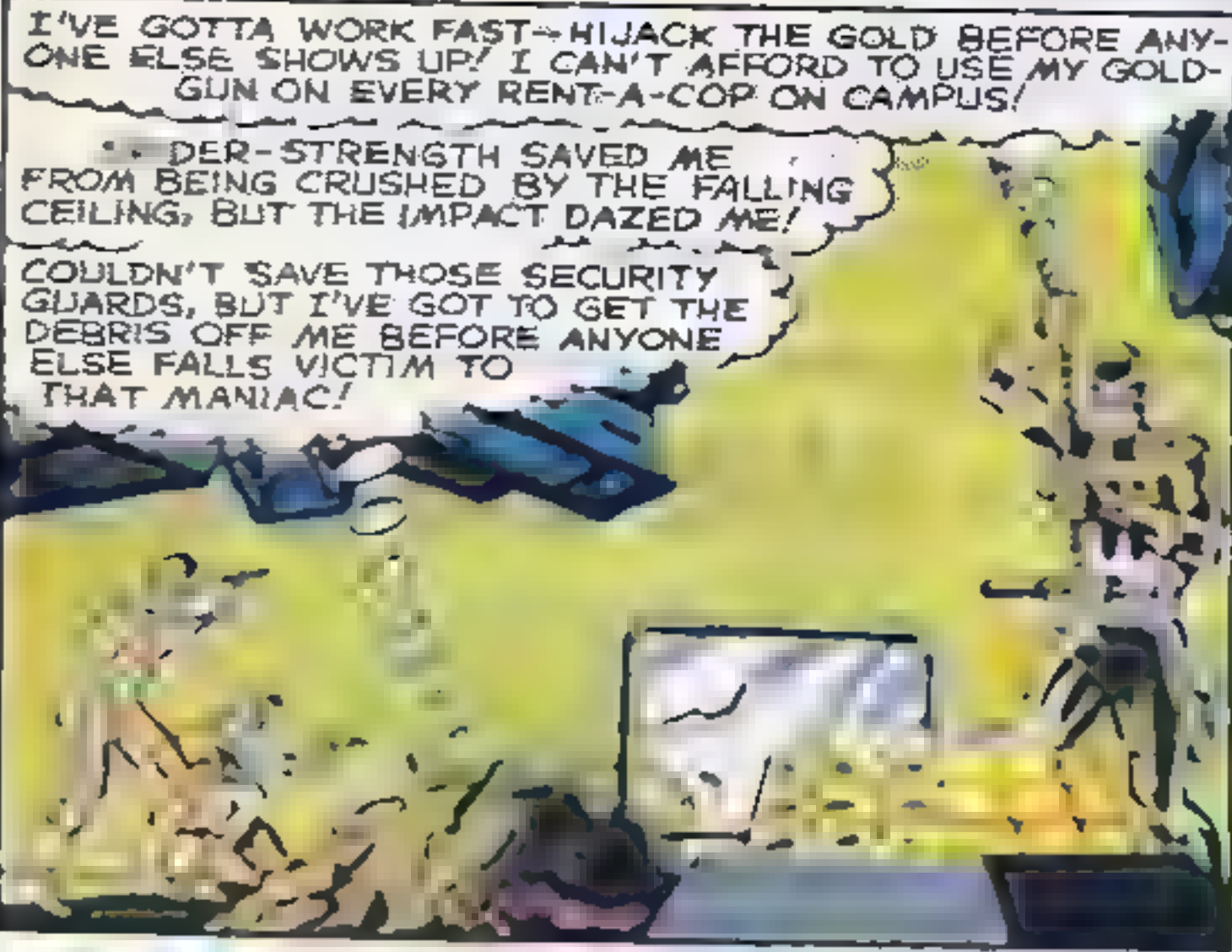


I CALL IT MY GOLD-GUN, GENTLEMEN!

GLESS WHY?



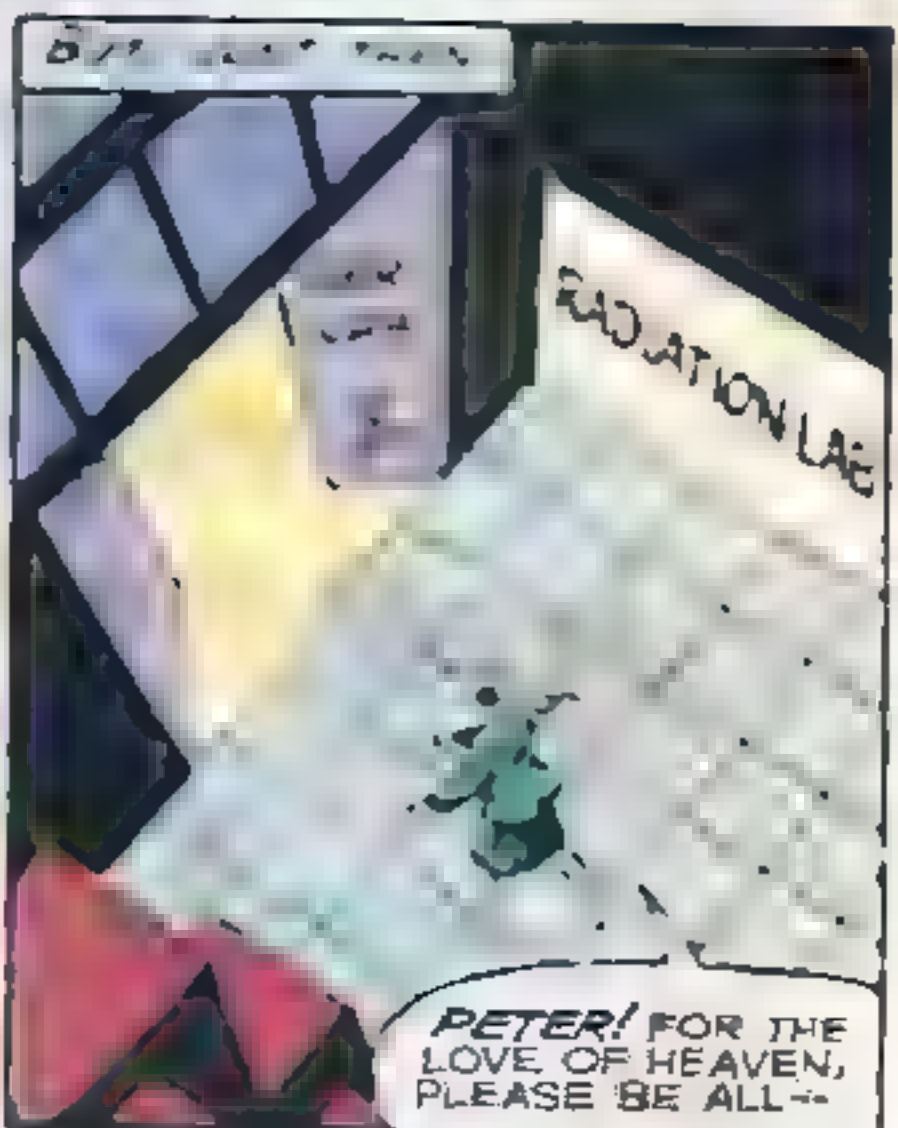
WHICH HARDENING UPON CONTACT, RENDERS THEM IMMOBILE.



I'VE GOTTA WORK FAST-HIJACK THE GOLD BEFORE ANYONE ELSE SHOWS UP! I CAN'T AFFORD TO USE MY GOLD-GUN ON EVERY RENT-A-COP ON CAMPUS!

DER-STRENGTH SAVED ME FROM BEING CRUSHED BY THE FALLING CEILING, BUT THE IMPACT DAZED ME!

COULDN'T SAVE THOSE SECURITY GUARDS, BUT I'VE GOT TO GET THE DEBRIS OFF ME BEFORE ANYONE ELSE FALLS VICTIM TO THAT MANIAC!



BITTERLY THEN

RADIATION LAG

PETER! FOR THE LOVE OF HEAVEN, PLEASE BE ALL--



RIGHT??

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE HERE, ANYONE HERE?

HERE,

DEBRIS



SH-SHE CAME TO HELP ME--  
BUT I JUST LAY HERE AND LET  
HER FALL VICTIM TO THE GOLD  
BUG! WHY DO I ALWAYS FAIL  
THE PEOPLE WHO CARE FOR  
ME? WHY?!



THOUGH DAZED, PETER  
PARKER STRAINS AGAINST  
THE MASSIVE WEIGHT WHICH  
PRESSES HIM TO THE FLOOR.

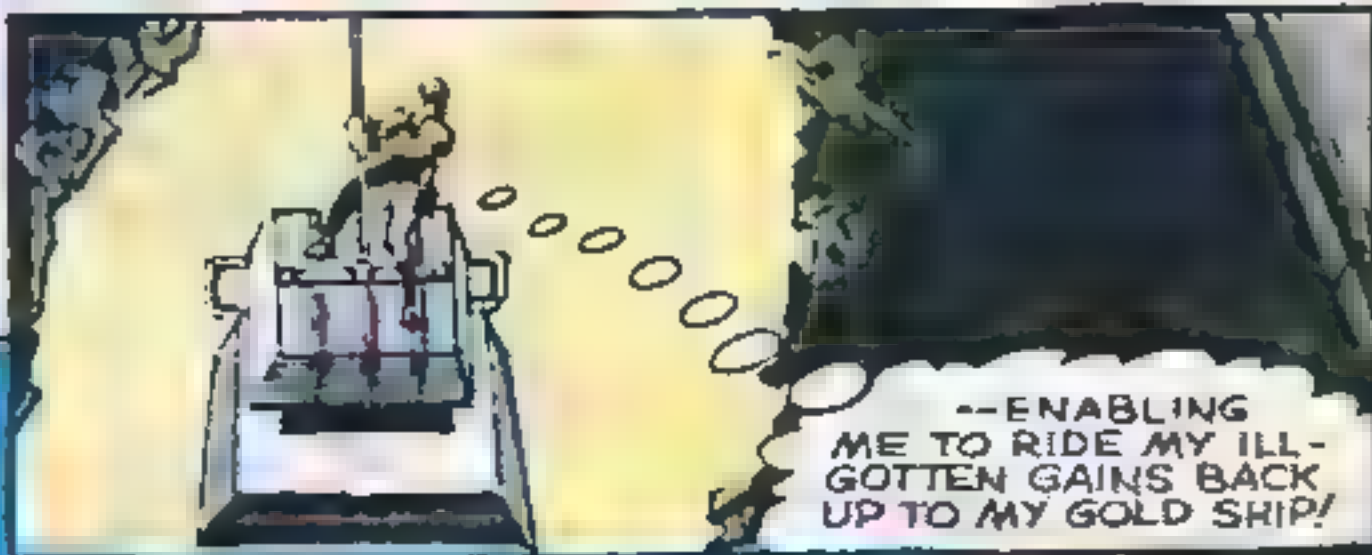
MEANWHILE..



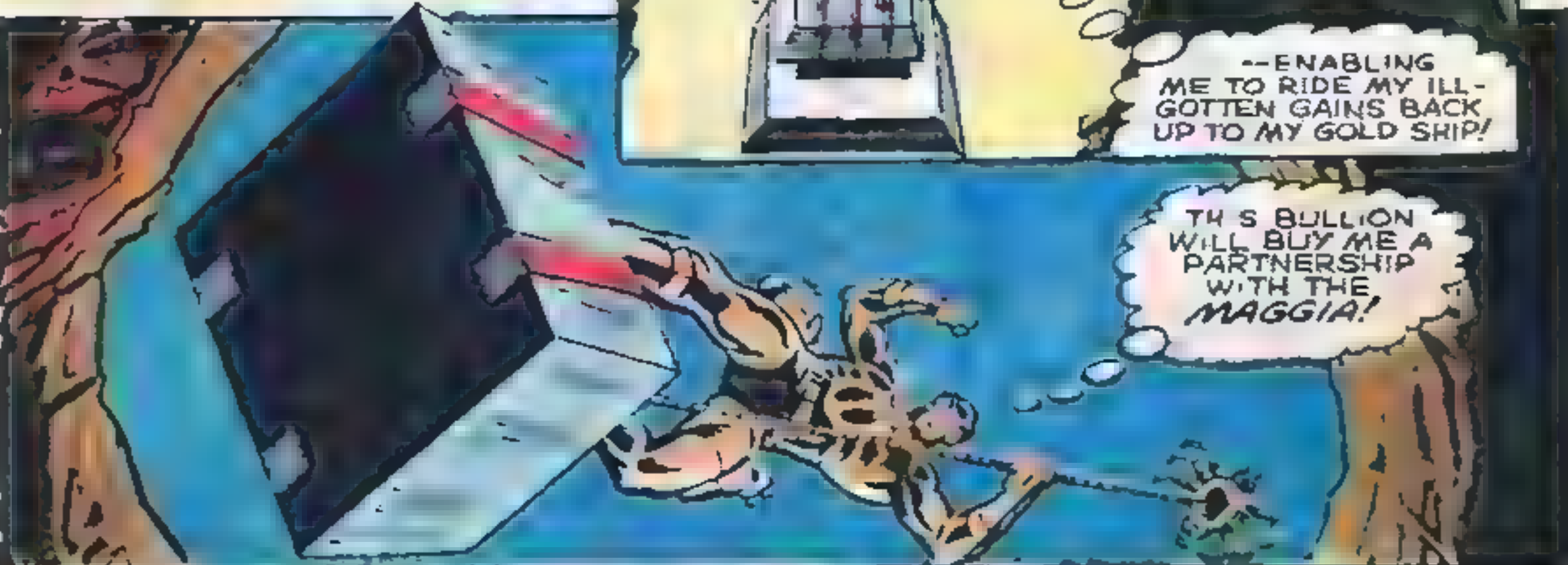
TIME TO  
USE ANOTHER OF  
MY EXPENSIVE  
INNOVATIONS!  
IT WOULD TAKE  
TOO LONG TO  
REMOVE THE GOLD  
BAR BY BAR..



--SO A PLASTIC  
RESIN FLOWS FROM  
MY CABLE WINCH,  
HARDENING THE STACK  
INTO AN EASILY  
MANAGEABLE WHOLE,  
WHILE STRAPS  
BIND IT TOGETHER--



--ENABLING  
ME TO RIDE MY ILL-  
GOTTEN GAINS BACK  
UP TO MY GOLD SHIP!



THIS BULLION  
WILL BUY ME A  
PARTNERSHIP  
WITH THE  
MAGGIA!

BELOW TONS OF STEEL-  
REINFORCED CONCRETE GIVE WAY  
BEFORE THE INDOMITABLE  
WILL AND SPIDER-STRENGTH  
OF PETER PARKER!



UNSH-I'M  
FREE!

NOW TO  
GO AFTER  
THE GOLD  
BUG!



HE'S BEING  
HAULED UP  
TOWARDS  
SOME SORT  
OF SHIP!

HE WON'T  
REACH IT!

NO! I CAN'T LEAVE DEB AND  
THE SECURITY GUARDS! THEY'RE  
STILL ENCASED WITHIN THE  
GOLD BUG'S PLATING!



THEY'LL  
SUFFOCATE!



AND, THOUGH  
--ER WOULD--  
BE MURDERER,  
DESERVES TO  
GET AWAY  
WITH THAT  
STILL-RADIO-  
ACTIVE  
GOLD--

-- I CAN'T  
ALLOW  
THAT TO  
HAPPEN,  
EITHER!



SNIFTLY  
DRAWING A  
SPIDER-TRACER FROM HIS  
CONCEALED WEB-BELT, PETER PARKER  
HURLS IT HEAVENWARDS...

WHERE IT ADHERES TO THE  
HULL OF THE GOLD BUG'S CRAFT!



NOW TO CRACK  
DEB AND THE  
GUARDS OUT OF  
THEIR GOLDEN  
COCOONS!

TIME IS RUNNING OUT, BUT HOW  
DO I FREE THEM?! C'MON,  
PARKER, YOU'RE A SCIENTIST!  
USE YOUR HEAD!



RIGHT! I NEED AN ACID  
SOLUTION THAT WILL  
MELT THROUGH THE  
GOLD-- BUT WON'T  
BURN THE SKIN  
UNDERNEATH!

LUCKILY  
THE  
CHEM LAB  
IS RIGHT  
NEXT  
DOOR!



I MUST MIX THE  
ACID SOLUTION  
CORRECTLY... AND  
QUICKLY!



SECONDS  
LATER

I DID IT! THEY'RE  
STILL GROGGY--  
BUT THEY'LL  
MAKE IT!

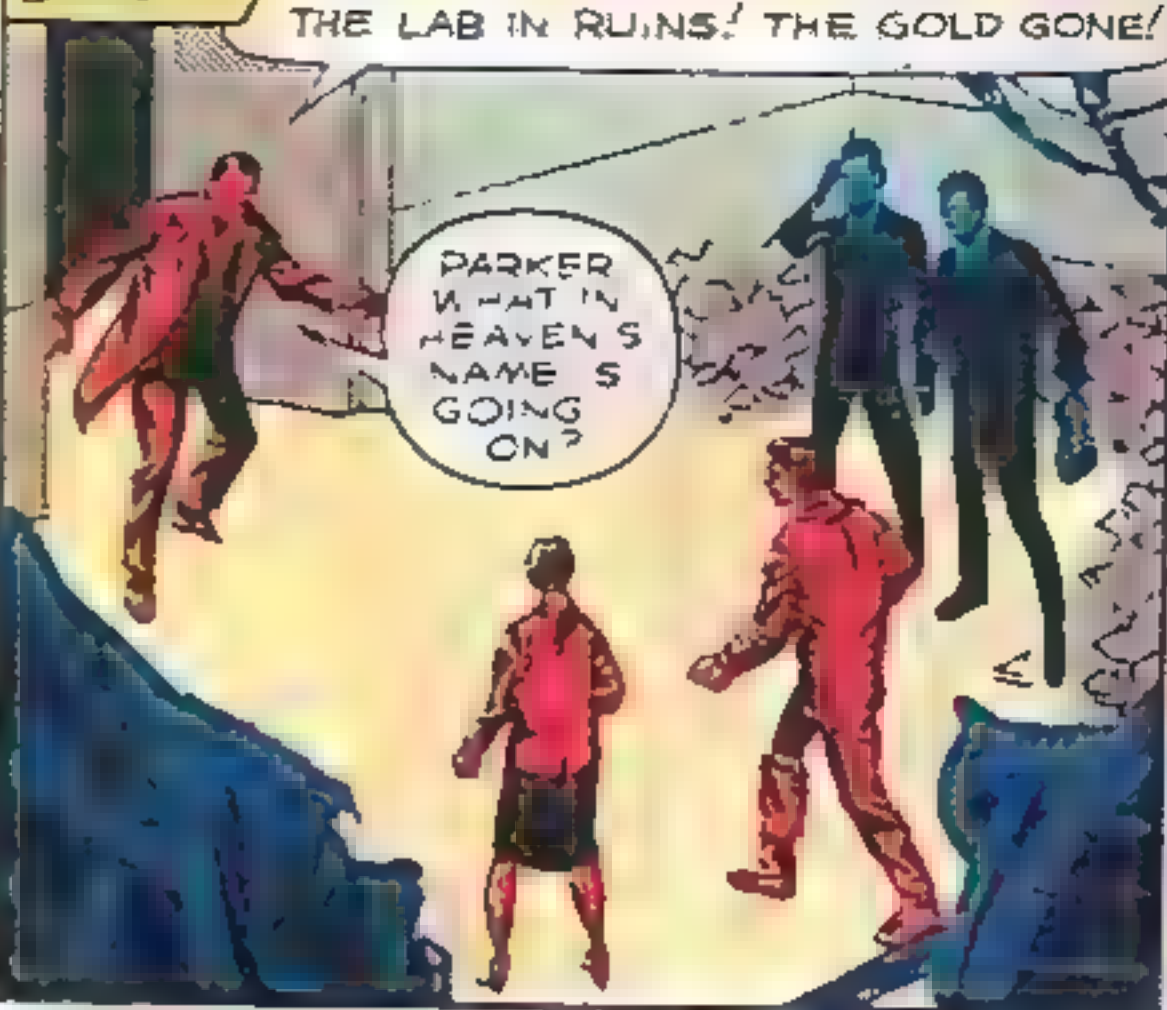
WHA--WHAT  
HAPPENED?



AND THEN, AS DR. SLOAN RETURNS FROM  
DINNER

THE LAB IN RUINS! THE GOLD GONE!

PARKER  
WHAT IN  
HEAVEN'S  
NAME'S  
GOING  
ON?

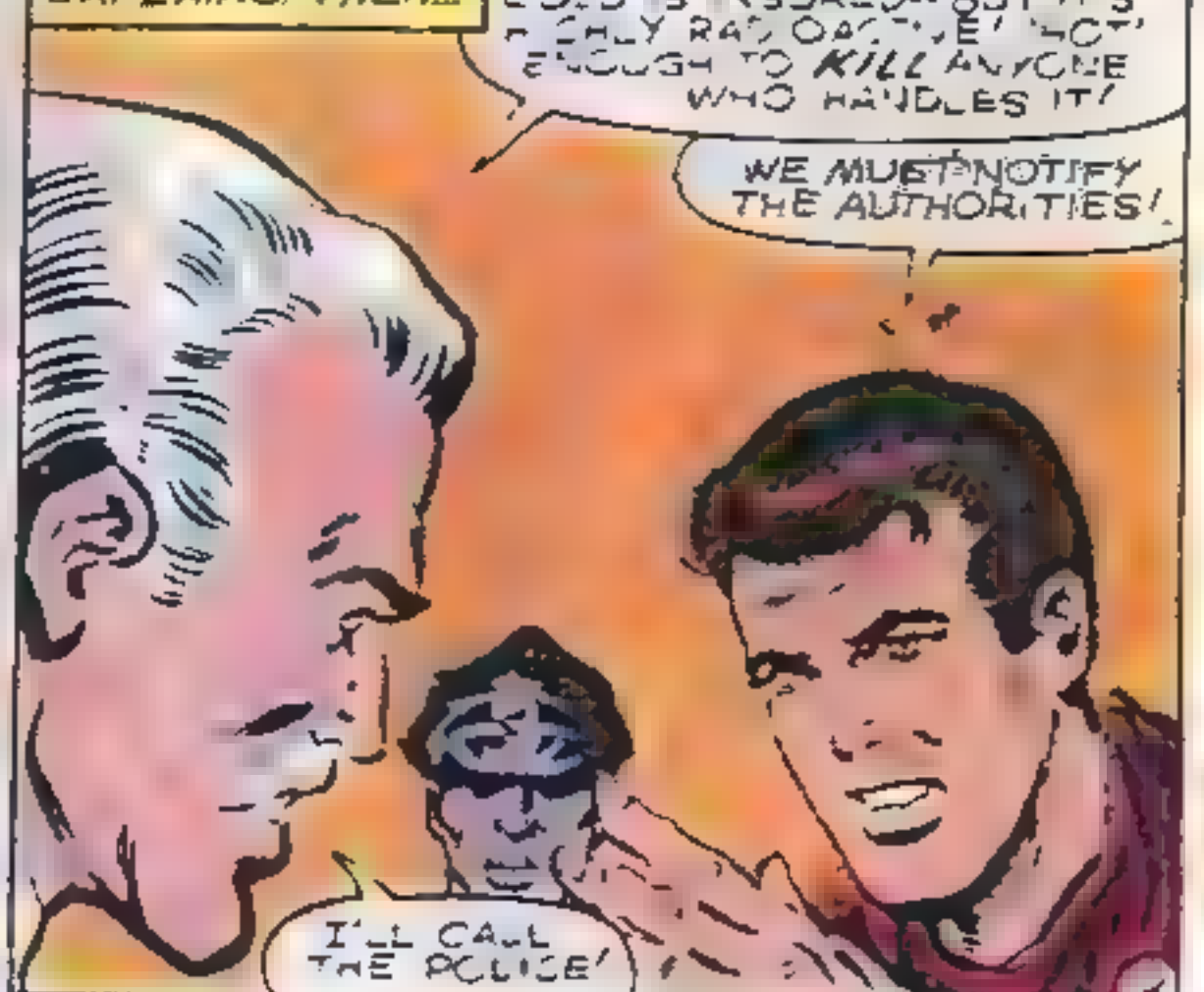


QUICKLY, PETER  
EXPLAINS THEN...

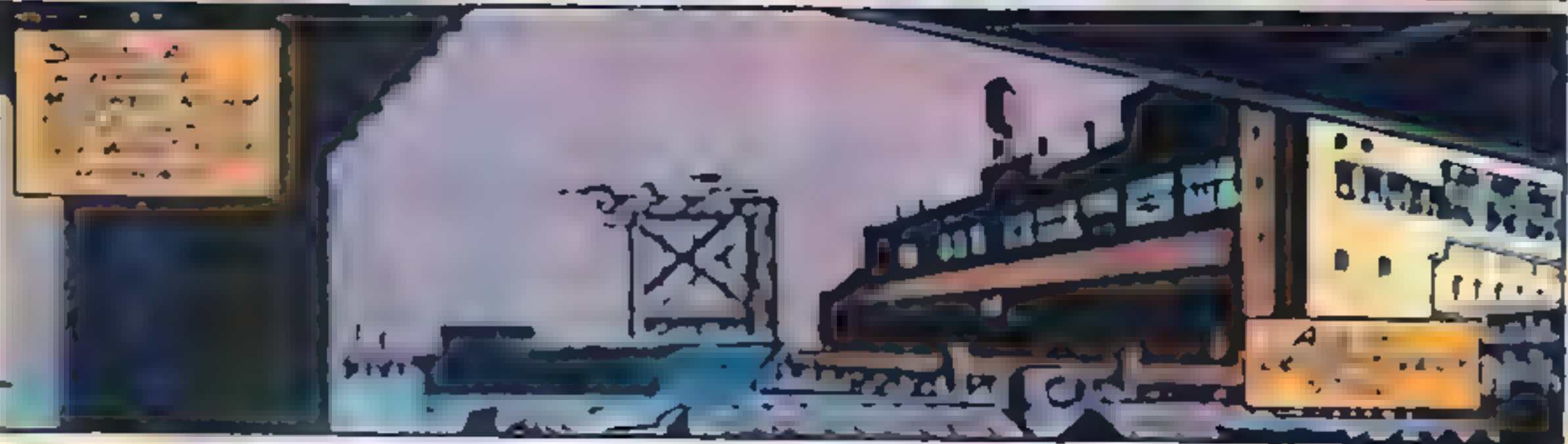
GOOD HEAVENS, PARKER! THE  
GOLD IS INSURED-- BUT IT'S  
A CHILY RADIO-ACTIVE! LOT  
ENOUGH TO KILL ANYONE  
WHO HANDLES IT!

WE MUST NOTIFY  
THE AUTHORITIES!

I'LL CALL  
THE POLICE!











BUT UNBE-  
KNOWNST TO  
THE MASTER  
THEE YOU HAS  
SOMEONE ELSE!

HMMM! THIS IS  
EITHER ONE VERY  
LOST FUNERAL  
PROCESS ON  
...OR THE  
MOB!

STAY  
WITH THE  
LIMO, SAMMY



STAY WITH THE  
CAR, SAMMY!  
STAY WITH THE  
CAR! GEEZ, I'M  
TIRED OF STAYIN  
WITH THE CAR!

YOU'RE A  
BUTTON  
MAN,  
AIN'TCHA?



SO?

SO BUTTON  
YER L.P. BOZO,  
BEFORE THE  
BOSS SICS A  
BUTTON MAN  
ON YOU.



YEAH,  
MAYBE  
THAT IS  
GOOD  
ADVICE!

KEEP  
TALKING  
GENTS



YOU'RE ALWAYS FULL  
OF GOOD ADVICE,  
JOEY! WHY DON'T  
YOU CHARGE FOR IT?

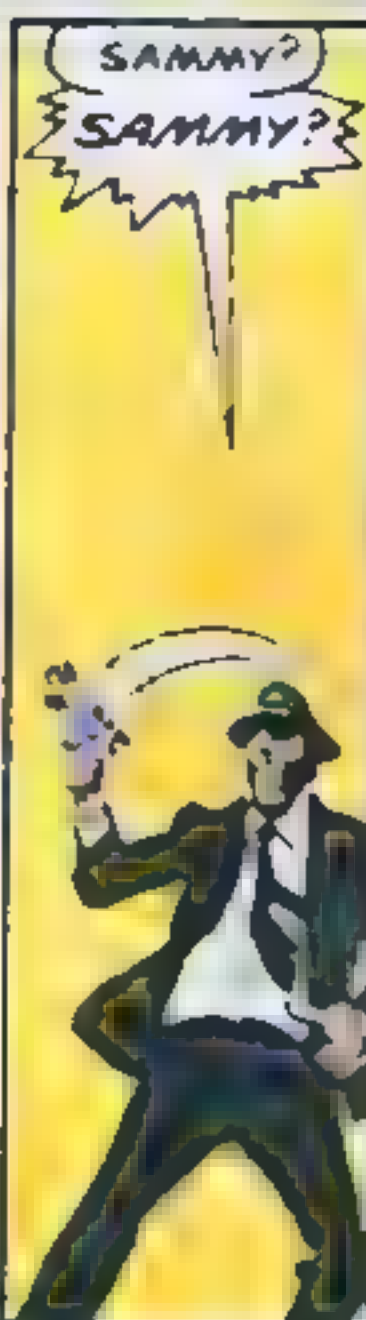
YOU  
COULDN'T  
AFFORD  
WHAT I'D  
CHARGE,  
SAMMY

YOU'RE  
A REAL CARD, JOEY!  
YOU SHOULD CHARGE  
FOR YOUR JOKES, TOO!



THEN  
YOU'D BE  
A R-A-  
CHARGE  
CARD!  
HA-HA!  
=URRRK!=

SHUT UP,  
WILLYA,  
SAMMY?



SAMMY?  
SAMMY?



HE  
LAUGHED  
HIMSELF  
TO SLEEP  
CHUCKLES  
LIGHTS  
OUT!



SECONDS LATER, AFTER WEBBING THE UNCONSCIOUS GUNSELS TO THE BUILDING'S FACADE...



THIS OLD WHARF'S AS CAVERNOLIS AS GRAND CENTRAL STATION!



I'M SURE NO ONE HEARD ME CONK SAMMY AND JOEY!



STILL, MY OLD SPIDER-SENSE IS TELLING ME TO PROCEED WITH CAUTION.

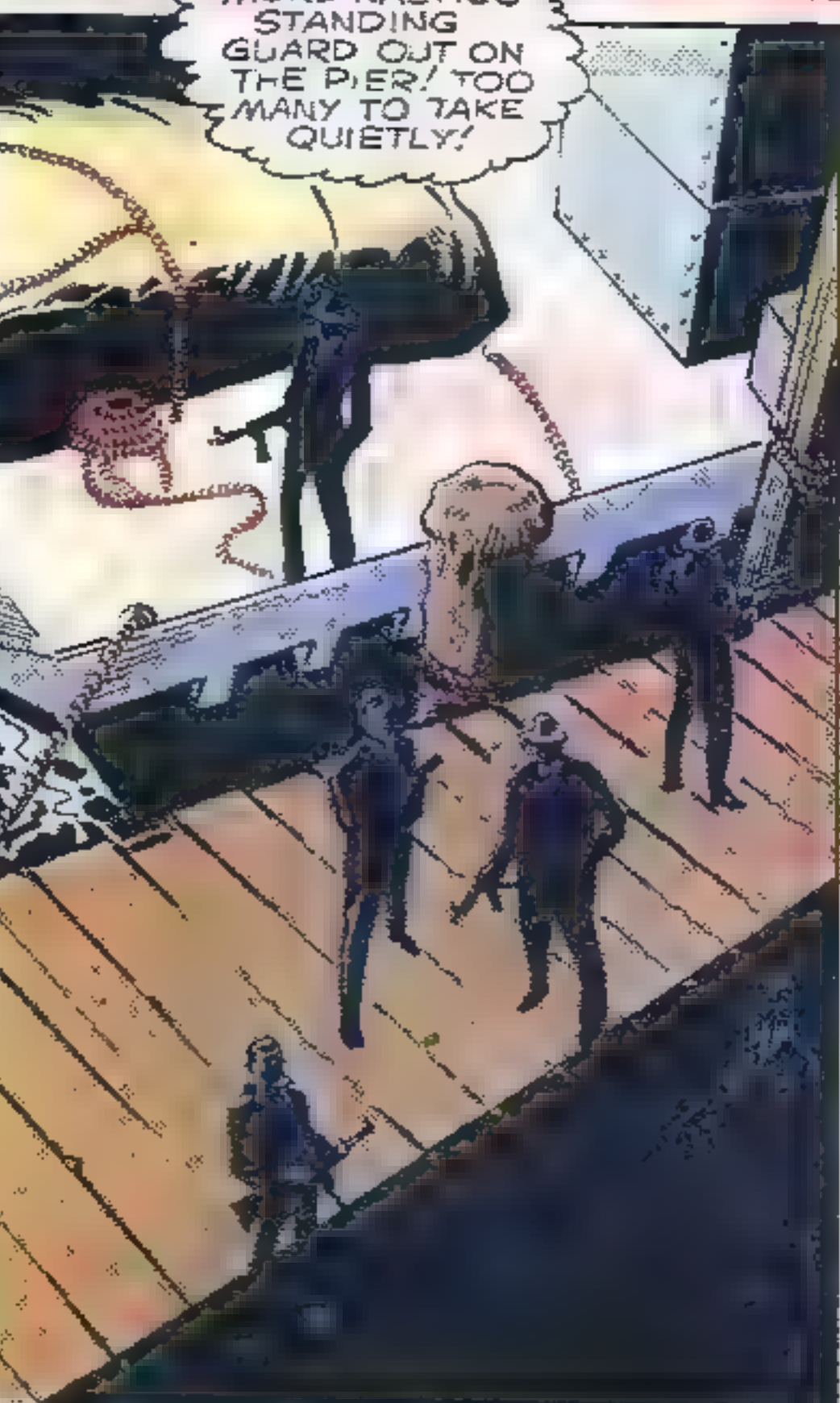


ALONG THE SHADOWED CEILING RAFTERS HE GOES, CLINGING LIKE A HUMAN SPIDER!

UNTIL...

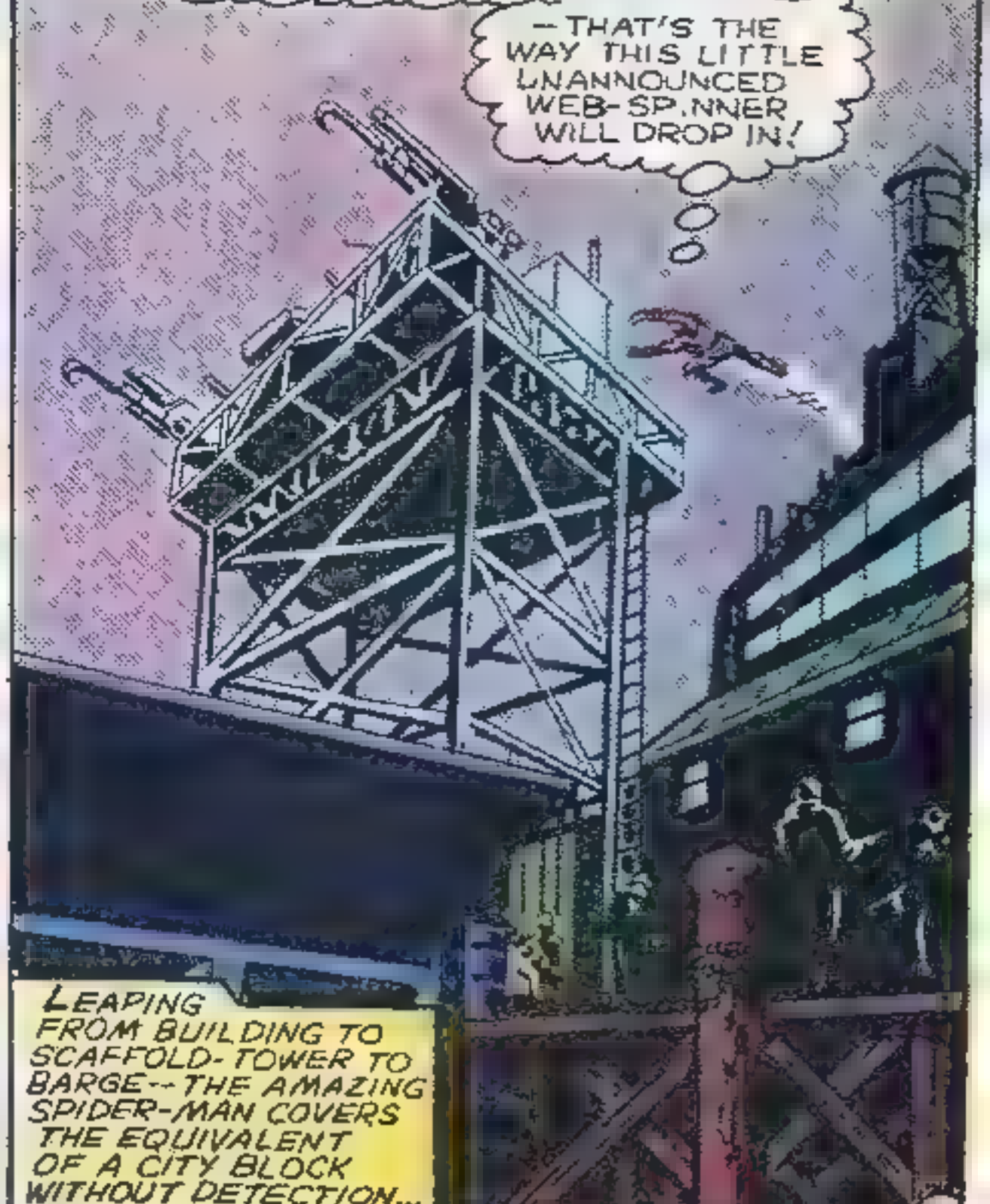


MORE NASTIES STANDING GUARD OUT ON THE PIER! TOO MANY TO TAKE QUIETLY!



SINCE THAT BARGE THEY'RE GUARDING SEEMS UNPROTECTED FROM THE SKY -

- THAT'S THE WAY THIS LITTLE UNANNOUNCED WEB-SPINNER WILL DROP IN!



LEAPING FROM BUILDING TO SCAFFOLD-TOWER TO BARGE-- THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN COVERS THE EQUIVALENT OF A CITY BLOCK WITHOUT DETECTION...



HIS ENTRANCE ALONG THE CEILING OF THE BARRELS EQUALLY UNOBSERVED

EUREKA! THERE'S THE GOLD BUG, THE GOLD, AND THE GOONS!

I'VE PROVIDED THE GOLD, AS I SAID I WOULD - NOW YOU PROVIDE THE FENCING OPERATION!

I'VE PROVIDED  
THE GOLD; AS I SAID I WOULD--NOW  
YOU PROVIDE THE FENCING OPERATION!

Like greedy moths around a golden flame the Maggia leaders gather over the gleaming yellow metal.

WE'RE IMPRESSED, GOLD BUG! VERY IMPRESSED!

THAT IS, OF COURSE, IF THE GOLD IS THE GENUINE ARTICLE!

DON'T TAKE MY WORD FOR IT! HAVE IT ASSAYED!

MACCHIOSO IS OUR EXPERT IN THAT FIELD!

AH YES! IF I MIGHT JUST HANDLE A BAR OR TWO?

DO THAT—AND YOU'LL NEVER REGRET IT!

A- YES! I  
MIGHT JUST  
HANDLE A BAR  
OR TWO?

DO THAT—AND  
YOU'LL NEVER  
REGRET IT!



WHO--?

UP THERE--  
IN THE  
SHADOWS--  
ATOP THE  
GOLD BUGS  
SHOP!

TA-DAA! DRUM ROLL  
PLEASE, MAESTRO!

...SPIDER-  
MAN!

GET  
HIM!  
HE'S  
SPYING  
ON  
US!

POW  
POW  
PTOW

GOOD  
GRIEF!

DO YOU  
THINK I HAVE NOTHING  
BETTER TO DO THAN  
PLAY PEEPING TOM?

SWOT!

I CAME HERE TO  
SAVE YOUR WORTH-  
LESS LIVES, THOUGH  
I KEEP ASKING  
MYSELF WHY!

BUT IF YOU  
WANT TO FIGHT--  
IT'S YOUR  
BRIDGEWORK!

WHAT'S SPIDER-  
MAN DOING HERE?

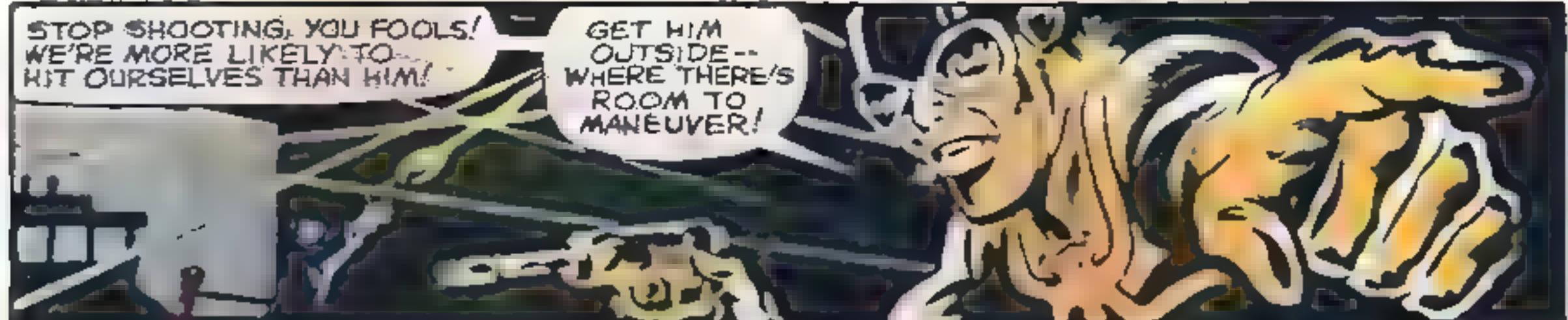
AS THE GOLD  
BUG POWERS  
THAT QUEST ON  
ABOVE LY THE  
PIER, THE GUN  
PACKING WARE  
RATS COME TO LIFE

SPIDER-  
MAN'S  
INSIDE  
THE  
BARGE!

HOW'D HE  
GET PAST US?

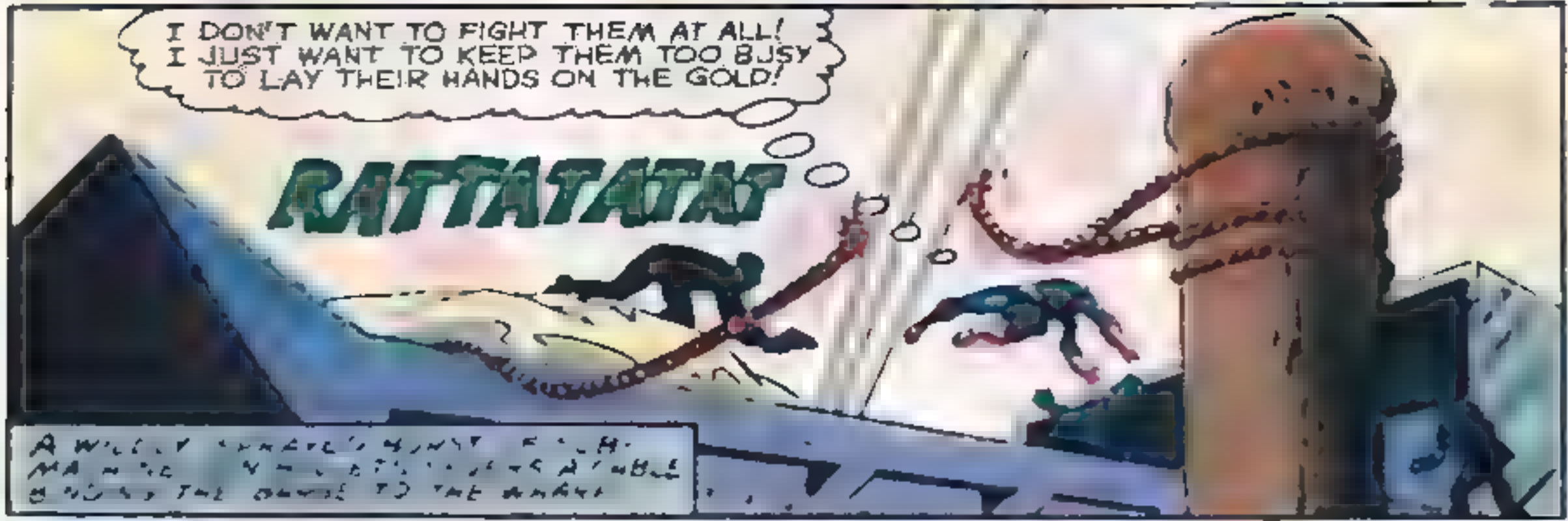
WHO CARES--  
SO LONG AS HE  
DOESN'T GET OUT!





STOP SHOOTING, YOU FOOLS!  
WE'RE MORE LIKELY TO  
HIT OURSELVES THAN HIM!

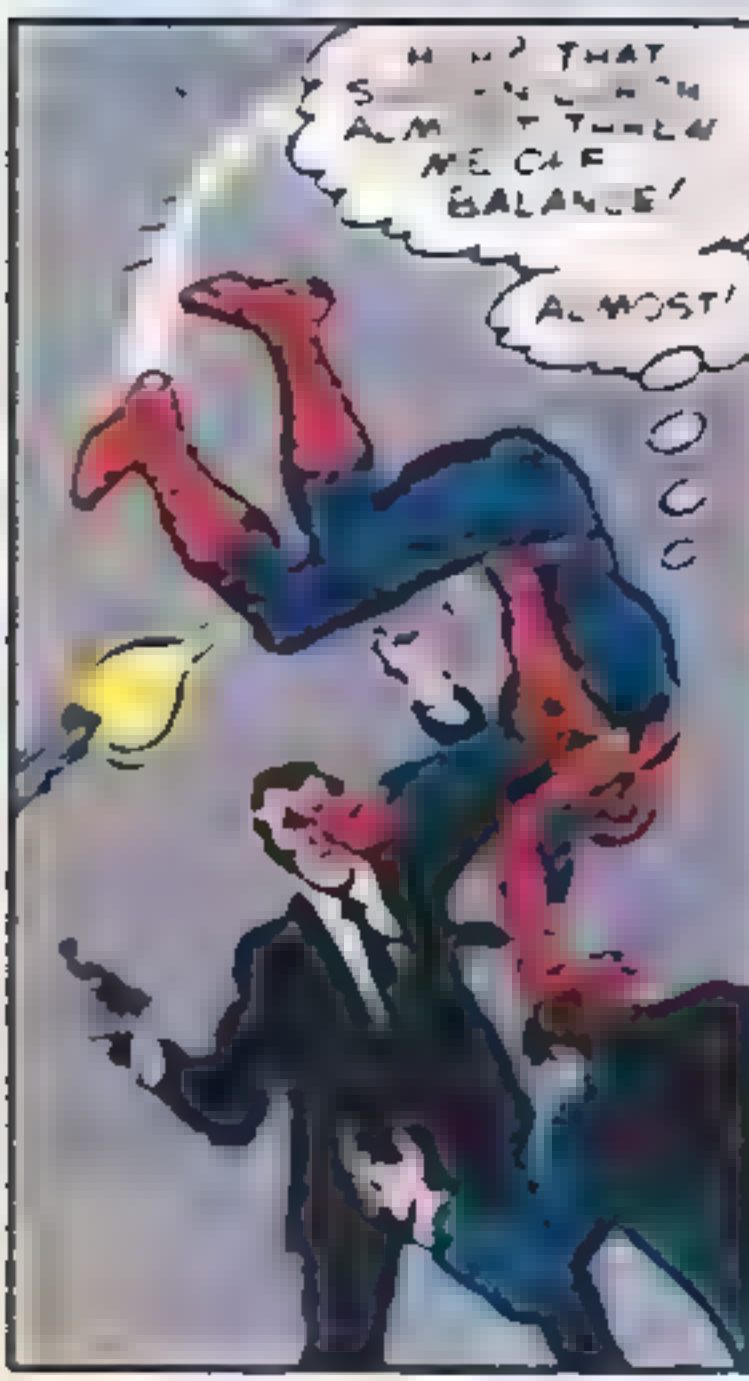
GET HIM  
OUTSIDE--  
WHERE THERE'S  
ROOM TO  
MANEUVER!



I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT THEM AT ALL!  
I JUST WANT TO KEEP THEM TOO BUSY  
TO LAY THEIR HANDS ON THE GOLD!

**RATTATATAT**

A WILLY WAGGON HUNT FOR THE  
MAHOGANY WHEELS OF A RAILROAD  
BURNS THE DRIVE TO THE WAGON



WELL THAT  
SOUNDS LIKE  
A MIGHTY  
NEAR  
BALANCE!

ALMOST!



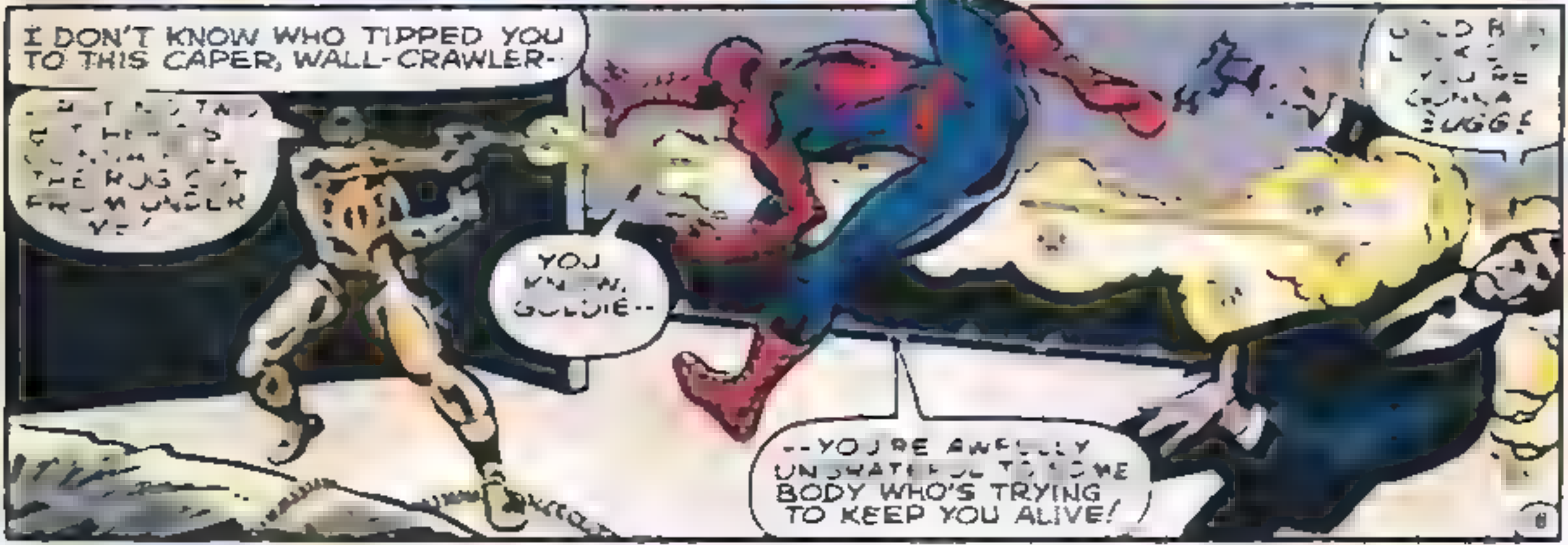
SWINGING  
ANY FOR THE  
P.D. THE  
BARGE SNAPS  
THE REMAINING  
RESTRAINING  
ROPE...



DECK'S  
SHITTING!  
THE GUNFELS  
CAN'T STAY ON  
THEIR FEET!



CAUTION! THE  
WAGON IS  
MOVING  
TOWARDS  
THE  
WAGON



I DON'T KNOW WHO TIPPED YOU  
TO THIS CAPER, WALL-CRAWLER--

WELL THAT  
SOUNDS LIKE  
A MIGHTY  
NEAR  
BALANCE!

YOU  
KNOW,  
GOLDIE--

WELL THAT  
SOUNDS LIKE  
A MIGHTY  
NEAR  
BALANCE!

--YOU'RE AWFULLY  
UNGRATEFUL TO SOME  
BODY WHO'S TRYING  
TO KEEP YOU ALIVE!



GOLD BUG'S  
DUSTER  
ONLY  
PARTIALLY  
COVERED  
THAT HOOD!  
HE'LL LIVE...

PIDER-MAN,  
MY GOLD-GUN  
WILL TURN YOU  
INTO A GLITTERING  
--A

WITH  
GLOVES?

I WO  
BE A LOSER,  
ANYMORE!



-- TO PROVE A POINT TO YOUR WOULD-BE PARTNERS-IN-CRIME! GATHER 'ROUND, GUYS! SHOOT IF YOU WANT TO--BUT THE MORE TIME YOU WASTE--THE SLIMMER ARE YOUR CHANCES OF GETTING CURED!

CURED? WHAT IN BLAZES IS THE WALL-CRAWLER TALKING ABOUT, GOLD BUG?

I-- I DON'T KNOW!

GUMDROP, YOU'RE DUMBER THAN I THOUGHT! THE GOLD YOU STOLE FROM THAT COLLEGE SCIENCE LAB WAS RADIOACTIVE--PART OF AN EXPERIMENT-IN-PROGRESS! YOU TOUCHED IT, GOLD BUG! SO DID YOUR FRIENDS! LOOK AT YOUR HANDS!

BURN BLISTERS! RUNNING SORES!

I'VE BEEN POISONED BY GOLD!

AND YOU BROUGHT IT HERE--TO US!

YOU'VE POISONED US, YOU CRUMMY--

KILL HIM!

NO! YOU WON'T GET ME! I-I'LL FIGHT MY WAY OUT--GET TO A HOSPITAL!

GOLD BUG! NO! DON'T GO FOR YOUR--

POW

POW

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

PTOW

--GUN!

I FLIPPED BACK OUT OF THE WAY BEFORE ALL THAT FLYING LEAD COULD VENTILATE MY SPIDER-SUIT--BUT THERE WAS NO TIME TO REACH GOLDIE!





NO SIGN OF HIM! HIS COSTUME LOOKED LIKE REAL GOLD FOIL!



IT MUST HAVE WEIGHED A TON! HE DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE!



I CAME HERE TO SAVE HIM!

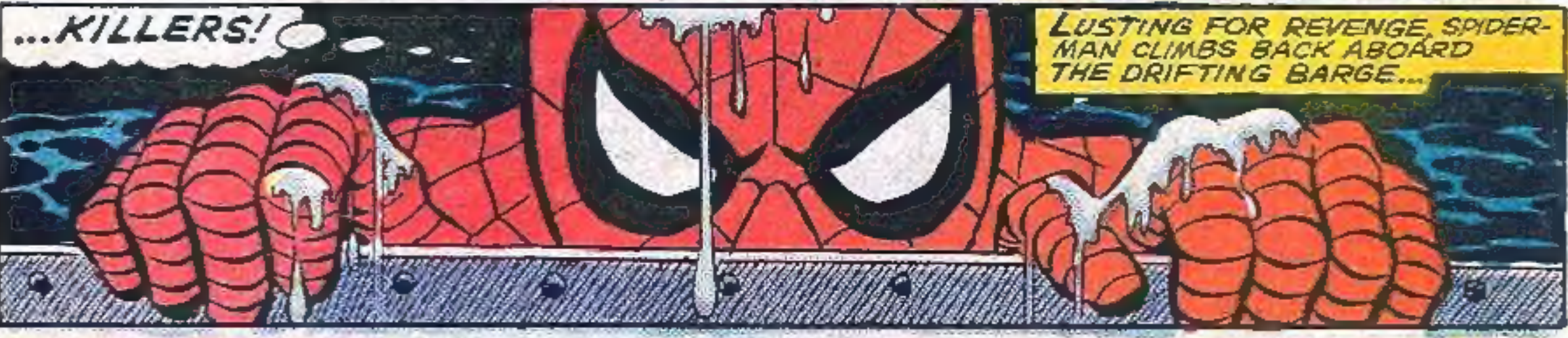
I NEVER GOT THE CHANCE, THANKS TO THOSE...



...DIRTY...



...ROTTEN...



...KILLERS!

LUSTING FOR REVENGE, SPIDER-MAN CLIMBS BACK ABOARD THE DRIFTING BARGE...



...ONLY TO FIND THAT THE HARBOR PATROL HAS ARRIVED IN HIS ABSENCE.

HANDS HIGH! KEEP MOVING!

WE WERE ALERTED BY YOUR GUNSHOTS!

SEARCH THE BARGE!

AND SOON, THE ENTIRE TALE IS TOLD.



RADIOACTIVE GOLD? CALL METROPOLITAN HOSPITAL'S DECONTAMINATION UNIT-- AND TELL THEM WE'RE ON OUR WAY WITH A DOZEN PATIENTS!

THERE'S STILL NO SIGN OF THE WEB-SPINNER-- OR GOLD BUG! I WONDER IF THEY MADE IT?



OUT OF SIGHT, THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN CLEAVES THROUGH THE MURKY RIVER, HIS BODY NUMBED BY THE FRIGID WATERS, HIS MIND NUMBED BY THE NIGHT'S ABORTED SUCCESSES AND FAILURES...

THE END



# SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAIL

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP  
575 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

TOM DeFALCO  
EDITOR  
MARK GRUENWALD  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Marvel,

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #57 — "These Wings Enslaved!" — was a fine story which reintroduced the lady I'd thought you guys had forgotten: Dr. Marla Madison. I hope to see more of this woman in the future, especially in her role as J. Jonah Jameson's friend. Will she calm his anger toward Spider-Man... or rebuild the spider-slayer?

While I didn't expect a resolution to last issue's tiff between Aunt May and Peter so soon, it did seem in character. That sweet old lady has never stayed mad at anyone for any length of time, and it's good to see her back in her role of the doting aunt. Just don't repeat the idea of her disappointment in Peter.

The artwork was more than fair, but I do want to complain about the numerous depictions of Spider-Man sans web-patterns on his costume. This oversight occurred over two dozen times, and I don't think it could be justified in over half-a-dozen cases where the picture was just too small. I don't know if this is the responsibility of Jim Shooter, or Jim Mooney, but Frank Miller did the same thing on the cover. Come on, folks! That black pattern really emphasizes the eerie Spider-quality of Spider-Man; a plain red-and-blue costume just doesn't make it.

I've been wondering whether or not Spidey should start collecting weapons from his fallen foes. Killer Shrike's wrist-blaster could be confiscated — this would make it harder for the villain to come back. And you never know when a handy-dandy electro-truncheon could be used! With the help of Dr. Curt Connors, Spidey could incorporate some of these devices into his armament. Just think of what he could do if he adapted the Shocker's vibrating costume into his own! That suit increased the Shocker's strength several times... Spider-Man would be about three times as strong as Ben Grimm with that device, but he would still have his own powers and wouldn't have to rely on such sophisticated hardware. I'm not saying he should use such things all the time, but if he knew he was headed for a rough fight, he could spring a few surprises on his enemies. Don't forget that Parker is a scientific genius; he should produce more than just web-fluid for his role as Spider-Man.

Rick S. Jones  
11292 West 17B  
Argos, IN 45601

And he has, Rick... like his Spider-tracers, and the magnetic inverter which he first used to defeat the Vulture. However, there are a couple of good reasons why he doesn't appropriate his foes' devices. For one thing, it would amount to theft! Someone like the Shocker may be a criminal, but he did develop equipment and does own it. (The police may confiscate it, but that's another matter.) Secondly, if Spider-Man picked up all of that stuff, he wouldn't really be Spider-Man any more... he'd be Gizmo-Man! And besides, we already have a hero who's equipped to carry a dozen or more devices around on his person... he's called Iron Man!

Now, as for your complaint about Spider-Man's webbing...

Dear Roger,

Now that you've canonized the motif by using it on a cover (SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #57), is it safe to assume that when we see Spider-Man's costume sans web-pattern, it's not just an inker's error? I used to think that it was a mistake when there were no web-lines on the red fabric. Now, however, it seems more likely that this is the way his outfit actually looks sometimes. A trick of the light, maybe — especially when the light source is behind him, and he's seen at a distance. A quick check of back issues will prove the truth of this; light bouncing at an odd angle from the red part of his costume makes it appear as though the web-pattern has vanished!

Am I right? I want to be right!

Gideon Smith  
11421 Notre Dame  
Cleveland, OH 44104

Right you are, Gideon!

The "disappearing web trick" on figures which are small or strangely lit is an old SPIDER-MAN convention, going all the way back to the art of Steve Ditko. We never realized that it actually bothered a few people. Thanks for giving us the opportunity to set the record straight. For meritorious service above and beyond the call of duty, we are awarding you a coveted *Marvel No-Prize*. Congratulations, True Believer!

Dear Guys,

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #57... well, it was different! I mean, how often do you glance up into the air and see a character in an odd costume... with a Rent-A-Tux slung over his shoulder... skimming from building to building?



And then, there's J.J.J. Since when does Jolly Jonah fork out the bucks for (of all things) a party? It was a welcome change from the staunch, capricious skinflint to a somewhat compassionate human being. This was well depicted in the way he vowed to hunt down Killer Shrike, should Marla Madison be harmed. I shall anxiously await to see how the relationship between old tightwad and Dr. Madison develops.

I don't especially like the Will-O'-The-Wisp, but Killer Shrike was a treat! I eagerly followed along the storyline to find out how and why ol' Will took control of Shrike's battle-suit. Needless to say, I wasn't disappointed! Let's see more of Killer Shrike in the future. (Please?)

I really enjoyed the struggle with the Brand Corporation guards. It always intrigues me when the skill which Spider-Man possess is displayed against that of ordinary men.

Now... what about Pete's relationships? Remember Debra Whitman? I don't think I can read any more shut-downs on Parker's part. Please do something!

Marshall Nelson  
115 Martin Drive  
Barboursville, WV 25504

Deb's been the one shutting Peter out of late, Marshall. But it looks like Ms. Whitman may be having some second thoughts. Only time... and future issues... will tell.

Dear Marvel,

Roger Stern is fast turning into one of Marvel's most capable writers, and his SPIDER-MAN is a joy to read. Also, he does exactly what he should be doing with this book: using villains from books other than the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. Like the current issue, with Killer Shrike...

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #57 was really nice. We got to see how J. Jonah Jameson really feels about Marla Madison, and we also got to see the long-awaited return of Will-O'-The-Wisp, which was really appreciated in these quarters. From the looks of things, Rog may be planning on turning Wispy into a bonafide super-villain; in his last appearance, the matter of just whose side Will-O'-The-Wisp was on became somewhat ambiguous. This, too, meets with approval from me. We can never have too many good villains.

As for Killer Shrike, he also makes a perfect foe for Spider-Man. His gimmicks are formidable enough to make him a deadly opponent. Villains, though, are only a small part of Stern's Spider-Magic.

Also on hand this issue were a number of "highlights," the little touches that make a comic magazine really come alive. Scenes like Spider-Man interrupting a battle with the Brand Corporation thugs to call Aunt May... with no undesirable consequences as a result! And that Burma Shave gag... I love it! I'm looking forward to Wispy's return and I hope the inclusion of Roderick Kingsley means we can also anticipate the return of Belladonna!

This issue gets and "A."

David Peatti  
4517 Birch Bark Road  
Concord, CA 94521



All we can say, Dave, is that we hope you enjoy Bill Mantlo's SPECTACULAR SPIDER-STORIES as much as you have Roger's! Ol' Rog is currently writing our companion magazine, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN... and we figure that between Rog, Bill, and J. Marc DeMatteis (on MARVEL TEAM-UP) there's more good ol' Marvel Magic in store for the Wall-crawler in the months ahead!

Dear Rog and Jim,

Well, the World's Tallest Comic-Book Chief did it again!

Utilizing his wondrous boarding-house reach, Jim Shooter plucked another batch of pulsating Spider-Man postures from the glorious Ditko days and incorporated them into SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #57, making Roger's resurrection of Will-O'-The-Wisp even more exhilarating than last

issue's bout with Jack-O'-Lantern.

Jeffrey Lowndes  
809 Sunset Street  
Scranton, PA 18509

Marvelom Assembled seems to be in total agreement with you, Jeffrey! We would love to grace these pages with more pulsating pencils by Mr. Shooter, but Jim Sallorup has him chained to his typewriter, writing THE AVENGERS! That's the problem with these artists... they all want to write!

Dear Rog and Jim,

Issue #57 was very good. As far as I was concerned, though, Jameson was his usual self, with no real surprises. I did like Frank Miller's cover, however, and I wouldn't mind seeing it used as the basis

for another story.

Everybody was well characterized, and the dialogue was great. SPIDER-MAN dialogue is getting a lot better of late, which I take to be a good sign for the future.

The return of both Rod Kingsley and Will-O'-The-Wisp were well handled, and I hope to see more of the both of them.

Roxxon the Brand Corporation is getting to be a really big adversary. I hope its downfall, whenever it comes, is suitably massive.

Alan E. Johnson  
#47-714 Willow Park Drive SE  
Calgary, Alberta  
Canada T2J 0L8

Rog tells us that he's overheard some of Brand Corporation's long-range plans... plans that will probably be unwinding before even we know it! Watch for 'em!



Check out these spider-thrillers for more webbed-up wonderment! On sale soon!

**AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #224:** He's one of Spider-Man's oldest foes — in more ways than one — but he's also one of his most dangerous! You guessed it, it's none other than the vengeful Vulture, and he's out to prove you can't keep an old bird down! Join us, if you've got the nerve, for "Let Fly These Aged Wings!"

**MARVEL TEAM-UP #113:** Together for the first time... our wondrous web-head and the cosmic crusader called Quasar! It's trouble with a capital "T" when Spider-Man's old foe Lightmaster takes over the quasi-stellar power of Quasar's alien energy-bands and goes gunning for Spidey! Keep your eyes peeled for "The Resurrection of Edward Lansky!"



## ATTENTION! Here are some more of the folks who entered Marvel's Win-Yourself-Some-Big-Bucks Contest! Is your name here?

Ronnie DiLuca  
W. Mifflin, PA  
Darin Smith  
Irvington, IL  
Dan Childress  
no address given  
Johnny Sullivan  
Daisy, TN  
Dean Keim  
Beavercreek, OH  
Tom Hurst  
Reed City, MI  
Bowe Berge  
no address given  
Kathy Boydston  
Washta, OK  
Michael Bourda  
Houston, TX  
Eric Martinez  
San Antonio, TX  
Mark Lowry  
Wichita, KS  
Bertram Bie  
Union City, CA  
Jimmy H. Adams  
Phoenix, AZ  
John Boyd  
DeKalb, IL  
Keith Pepin  
Bedford, NH  
Tony Coffin  
Freeport, TX  
Christopher Bartlett  
Greenfield, MA  
Quail Tapp  
Baton Rouge, LA

Mark Williams  
Rogers, AZ  
Evelyn Schlatter  
Salida, CO  
David Murphy  
Monteriallo, AL  
Chad Swanson  
Cozad, NE  
Bruce A. Blackard  
Decatur, AL  
Billy Reagan  
Akron, OH  
Matt Butler  
Torrance, CA  
Terence Yeh  
Honolulu, HI  
Lon Gravett  
Dayton, TN  
Curtis Brown  
Harbor City, CA  
Erik Weinmeister  
Minatare, NE  
Richard Montesanto  
East Haven, CT  
Jude Eugene  
Brooklyn, NY  
Chris Humpherys  
New York, NY  
Greg Casperson  
Escanaba, MI  
Brian Metoyer  
New Orleans, LA  
James Osborn  
Niceville, FL  
M. Hollins  
St. Louis, MO

Edner Sanchez  
Corona, NY  
Gary Howard  
Long Beach, CA  
Jimmy McMasters  
San Bernardino, CA  
Jeff Daly  
Shenandoah, WA  
Joe Vanuti  
Boston, MA  
David L. Webster  
St. Catharines, Ont.  
Monte Cupp  
McAlister, OK  
Ben Feller  
Massillon, OH  
Peter Aronoff  
Lauderhill, FL  
Patrick Sapinski  
Berkeley, IL  
Michael Lewis  
Miami, FL  
Victor McClure  
no address given  
Shawn Kaybon  
Nashville, TN  
Chris Lavalle  
Northport, NY  
Cecil Rockett  
St. Louis, MO  
Eddie Myers  
Trotwood, OH  
Larry Bryan  
Doctors Inlet, FL  
Steve Schiff  
Los Angeles, CA

Leland Jackson  
Tallahassee, AL  
Mark Heuer  
Schaumburg, IL  
David Culmer  
Lompoc, CA  
Michael Weaver  
Melbourne, FL  
Eric Yosemite  
Maui, HI  
Scott Smith  
Cicero, IL  
Paul Meserole  
Portland, OR  
Robby Kotera  
Bedford, TX  
Marc Crytzer  
Kittanning, PA  
Manuel Melchor  
Houston, TX  
Steve Smith  
Matoaka, WV  
Dennis Ocasio  
Orlando, FL  
Mike Hogue  
Wichita, KS  
Jeffrey Holmes  
Rochester, NY  
Chris Kilbourn  
Cupertino, CA  
Jerry Bryan  
Clemson, SC  
Jimmy  
Elmendorf AFB, AK  
Jack Freeman, Jr.  
Brooklyn, NY

James This  
Orange Park, FL  
Jimmy Metcalf  
Pisgah, AL  
Nick Bartley  
Waukesha, WI  
Derrick Taylor  
Los Angeles, CA  
Randy Ferguson  
Hot Springs, AR  
David Creel  
Lynden, WA  
Jeff Nielson  
Phoenix, AZ  
Pat Mitroja  
Ft. Wayne, IN  
Eric Martinez  
San Antonio, TX  
Klerayshai White  
Brooklyn, NY  
John Cromer  
Churchville, VA  
Marc Israel  
Brooklyn, NY  
Mike Bowerbank  
Burnaby, B.C., Can.  
Dale Wieser  
Yukon, OK  
Lynn Pollard  
Oklahoma City, OK  
Jeff Phillips  
Burkburnett, TX  
Jeff Gary  
Newark, OH  
Jeff Forrest  
no address given

Angel Molina  
Brooklyn, NY  
Eugene Schafer  
Rochelle Park, NJ  
Dwight Fischer  
Emerson, NB  
John Damps  
Apopka, FL  
David Johnson  
Iron, MN  
Brad VanDeventer  
Lake Odessa, MI  
Steve Alexander  
Topeka, KS  
Sean Cole  
Oakwood, VA  
Scott Locklear  
Linden, VA  
John Ikard  
Visalia, CA  
Pat Callow  
Farmington Hills  
Gerald Gilliard  
Bronx, NY  
Quinn Eades  
Woodruff, WI  
Tony Sarte  
Jacksonville, FL  
Ken Schwartzman  
San Antonio, TX  
Gary Botts  
no address given  
Mat Mayhall  
Cincinnati, OH  
Danny Brennan  
Austin, TX

Edward  
Albuquerque, NM  
Cy Yanagisawa  
Hilo, HI  
Richard Jones  
Richmond, VA  
Chris Yeh  
Honolulu, HI  
Sue Bostwick  
Lowell, MA  
Marlon Weitman  
Plains, GA  
Aaron Britt  
Detroit, MI  
Carrie Mather  
Boise, ID  
Sam Hill  
no address given  
Ron Chapham  
Dracut, MA  
Ken Parkinson  
Antlers, OK  
Kane Clearwater  
Hopedale, IL  
Larry Trutter  
Springfield, IL  
Scott Pendleton  
Franklin, OH  
Cris Christensen  
Brem., WA  
Harris Wakean  
Kansas City, MO  
Mark Gaim  
St. Charles, MI  
Greg Gatin  
Whitewood, Sask.